

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Coated plant seed, characterized in that~~ A coated plant seed ~~wherein~~ said seed comprises a seed coated with at least one fixing agent in the amount of 0.03 to 5% by weight comprising at least one ~~aspartic~~ aspartic acid derivative selected from the group consisting of ethylenediamine disuccinic acid, 2,2'-iminodisuccinic acid, isomers thereof and salts thereof, ~~with~~ and at least one plant nutrient in the amount of 0.1 - 70% by weight relative to seed weight.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Coated~~ The coated plant seed according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the salt of said ethylenediamine disuccinic acid, 2,2'-iminodisuccinic acid, or isomers thereof is an alkali or alkaline earth metal salt.

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Coated~~ The coated plant seed according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said coating comprises 0.1 - 2% by weight of a trace element, relative to seed weight.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Coated~~ The coated plant seed according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said coating comprises 0.1 - 10% by weight of a nutrient salt, relative to seed weight.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Coated~~ The coated plant seed according to claim 1, ~~characterized-in-that wherein~~ said coating further comprises 0 – 2% by weight of a further agent having an effect on plant growth, such as a pesticide, a growth regulator, a preservative, a stabilizer, a functionally active agent and a sugar, and further, 0.1 – 10% by weight of water, relative to seed weight.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Coated~~ The coated plant seed according to claim 1, ~~characterized-in-that wherein~~ said seed is coated with an aqueous coating composition comprising 1 – 50%, ~~preferably 5 – 50%, more preferably 5 – 30%~~ by weight of the fixing agent, 0 – 15% by weight of a trace element, 0 – 70%, ~~preferably 0 – 40%~~ by weight of a nutrient salt, 0 – 15% by weight of a further agent having an effect on plant growth, and 30 – 90% by weight of water.

8. (Currently Amended) An aqueous coating composition for coating seeds, ~~characterized-in-that wherein~~ said composition comprises at least one fixing agent comprising at least one ~~aspartic~~ aspartic acid derivative selected from the group consisting of ethylenediamine disuccinic acid, 2,2'-iminodisuccinic acid, isomers thereof and salts thereof, and at least one plant nutrient.

9. (Currently Amended) The aqueous coating composition according to claim 8, ~~characterized-in-that wherein~~ said composition comprises 1 – 50%, ~~preferably 5 – 50%~~ by weight

of the fixing agent, 0 – 15% by weight of a trace element, 0 – 70%, ~~preferably 0 – 40%~~ by weight of a nutrient salt, 0 – 15% by weight of a further agent having an effect on plant growth, and 30 – 90% by weight of water.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for coating seeds according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein seeds to be coated are subjected in an apparatus suitable for treating seeds, followed by the addition of either

(a) an aqueous coating composition comprising at least one fixing agent compound and plant nutrient containing trace elements and/or nutrient salts, and optionally further agents having an effect on plant growth to form a coating on the surface of the seed,

or

(b) at least one aqueous fixing agent compound to form ~~an~~ a fixing agent layer on the surface of the seed, followed by the addition of a plant nutrient in powder form containing trace elements and/or nutrient salts, and optionally further agents having an effect on plant growth, to form a coating on the surface of the seed,

or

(c) an aqueous coating composition comprising at least one fixing agent compound and plant nutrient to form ~~an~~ a fixing agent layer on the surface of the seed, followed by the addition

of plant nutrient in powder form containing trace elements and/or nutrient salts, and optionally further agents having an effect on plant growth, to form a coating on the surface of the seed.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the aqueous coating composition of steps a), b) and c) is the aqueous coating composition as defined in claim 8 or 9.

12. (New) The coated plant seed according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said coating comprises 0.1 – 5% by weight of the fixing agent compound, relative to seed weight.

13. (New) The coated plant seed according to claim 1, wherein said seed is coated with an aqueous coating composition comprising 5 - 50 % by weight of the fixing agent, 0 – 15% by weight of a trace element, 0 – 70% by weight of a nutrient salt, 0 – 15% by weight of a further agent having an effect on plant growth, and 30 – 90% by weight of water.

14. (New) The coated plant seed according to claim 1, wherein said seed is coated with an aqueous coating composition comprising 5 – 30% by weight of the fixing agent, 0 – 15% by weight of a trace element, 0 – 70% by weight of a nutrient salt, 0 – 15% by weight of a further agent having an effect on plant growth, and 30 – 90% by weight of water.

15. (New) The aqueous coating composition according to claim 8, wherein said composition comprises 5 – 50% by weight of the fixing agent, 0 – 15% by weight of a trace

element, 0 – 40% by weight of a nutrient salt, 0 – 15% by weight of a further agent having an effect on plant growth, and 30 – 90% by weight of water.